

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254850

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: IV PROGRAM: INVITATIONS FOR BUTROVA AND KOKONIN

REF: MOSCOW 15370

1. DEPT AGREES THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH BUTROVA VISIT
AS PLANNED.

2. WE ARE RELUCTANT PERMIT SUBSTITUTION OF KOVALEV FOR KO-
KONIN SINCE THIS WOULD MEAN THAT U.S. GOVT HAD NO VOICE IN
NOMINATIONS OF FIRST CANDIDATES FROM MINCULT TO TRAVEL UN-
DER IV PROGRAM. OUR RELUCTANCE IS INCREASED BY FACT THAT
WE ACCEPTED BUTROVA LARGELY TO GET KOKONIN. IN INTEREST OF
ESTABLISHING PRINCIPLE THAT MINCULT NOMINATIONS FOR IV PRO-
GRAMS SHOULD AT LEAST BE BASED ON EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS, WE
WOULD PREFER EMBASSY TELLING MINCULT THAT LAST MINUTE SUBS-
TITUTION OF KOVALEV NOT FEASIBLE. EMBASSY COULD ADD THAT
KOVALEV WOULD BE HIGH ON PRIORITY LIST FOR FUTURE IV INVITA-
TIONS IN CULTURAL AREA.

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3. SUBSTITUTION OF KOVALEV FOR KOKONIN IS, HOWEVER, POSSIBLE FROM OPERATIONAL POINT OF VIEW (ASSUMING HE IS LEGITIMATE CULTURAL OFFICIAL WITH NO VISA PROBLEMS), AND EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE IV INVITATION TO HIM IF IT

CONCLUDES U.S. INTERESTS WOULD THUS BEST BE SERVED.

KISSINGER

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